

In the first place, just serving his Nation for 42 years in the U.S. Senate; again, the longest-serving Republican Senator in all of U.S. history. He rose to the position of President pro tempore, serving under seven Presidents and nine Senate majority leaders.

I love this fact; it is remarkable: He has passed more legislation than any other Senator who is alive today, more than 750 bills, which I think reflects on not only his long career, but on his ability to work with others because he could not have done that by himself. He could not have done that just with his own party. He had to do that in a bicameral and a bipartisan fashion, and he certainly did, and he is known for that.

Again, the numerous leadership positions, chairman of three major committees, which have already been mentioned here.

I think it is fair, as well, and appropriate that we mention not only him, but his wife, Elaine. As good as Orrin is, Elaine is every bit as good and in some cases better. And their 6 children and 23 grandchildren, the result of 60 years of marriage.

Of final note, Senator Hatch was particularly active and impactful in the judiciary. I think that every sitting U.S. District Court Judge in Utah, including, by the way, my brother, owes, to some degree, their position because of the support of Senator Hatch. He had an unparalleled career. He had an unparalleled impact on the judiciary, and it is perfectly appropriate that we name the new courthouse in Salt Lake City after this distinguished gentleman, and I absolutely support and endorse this effort.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, Senator Hatch was one of the longest-serving members of the U.S. Senate, often working on a bipartisan basis to get the work of the American people done.

This bill will honor and recognize his dedication and decades of service to this great Nation.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4902.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALS DISABILITY INSURANCE ACCESS ACT OF 2019

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 578) to amend title

II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 578

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF WAITING PERIOD FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS WITH AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS).

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(a)(1)) is amended in the matter following subparagraph (E) by striking “or (ii)” and inserting “(ii) in the case of an individual who has been medically determined to have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, for each month beginning with the first month during all of which the individual is under a disability and in which the individual becomes entitled to such insurance benefits, or (iii)”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to applications for disability insurance benefits filed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

□ 1500

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

ALS is a devastating and cruel disease. There is no cure for ALS, and ALS always leads to a premature death. On average, people live only 2 to 5 years after getting a diagnosis of ALS.

Earlier this year, I lost my dear friend and former Chief of Staff, Elliot Ginsberg to ALS, and previously lost a near and dear friend, Danny Jones, who I went to grammar school with and played basketball with, who later led Central Connecticut in his collegiate years.

Every year, approximately 5,000 Americans are diagnosed with ALS.

Over time, people with ALS lose their ability to speak, to eat, to move, and even to breathe. They are unable to work due to their severe disabilities, and they lose their jobs and their employer-based health insurance. I have witnessed this happen to both them

and, as importantly, their family members, and to see the agony and the suffering and yet the dedication and love that they go through.

Recognizing the devastating nature of ALS, in 2000, Congress passed bipartisan legislation that waived the 24-month waiting period for Medicare for people with ALS.

Today, we consider the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019. This bipartisan legislation will end the 5-month waiting period for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits for people with ALS.

Madam Speaker, I want to give special thanks to Representative SETH MOULTON, who has been a champion on this issue, along with the 305 Members of the House of Representatives who have cosponsored Representative MOULTON's bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019. Our actions today will provide people with ALS quicker access to the Social Security and Medicare benefits they have earned.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to commend my colleague on the House Ways and Means Committee, BILL PASCRELL, for his passionate leadership and untiring advocacy on behalf of those suffering with Huntington's disease, a terrible disease which affects children as well as adults.

Today, we are passing this bill for many with ALS, but we also know there are many devastating diseases, such as Huntington's and metastatic breast cancer, which also deserve the same benefits and to have bills in Congress that will provide just that.

We need a solution for everyone.

People with the kinds of severe disease and disabilities that qualify them for Social Security really need the benefits they have earned as soon as possible. I hope that in the next Congress we can try to help everyone, by doing what BERNIE SANDERS and LLOYD DOGETT and others have proposed, to eliminate these waiting periods across the board.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 578, the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019.

As my colleague, Mr. LARSON, has indicated, this legislation will provide immediate access to disability insurance benefits for individuals suffering from ALS, otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's disease, by eliminating the 5-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits.

Madam Speaker, it is only fair that we remove this waiting period to ensure everyone with this disease will have immediate access to the benefits they have earned.

It is only fair, also, that we help great Americans like a family in our

district, the Palmesano family, Mike and Suzy, who are close, personal friends of mine, who I have gotten to know over the years when their son Mick was recently diagnosed with rapid progression ALS.

The Palmesano family has been strong advocates for this cause, and I couldn't be prouder of their efforts. Their bravery in the face of adversity represents hundreds of families in our district and thousands of families across the country struggling with this terrible disease day in and day out.

The disability insurance waiting period was designed to make sure a condition wasn't temporary before benefits were paid, not to prevent great Americans, like Mick and his family and others, from receiving disability benefits.

The data, Madam Speaker, is clear. On average, ALS patients live 3 to 5 years. Once ALS starts, it almost always progresses, eventually taking away the ability to walk, dress, write, speak, swallow, and breathe.

Given the severity of ALS and that there is no current cure, people diagnosed with this disease know this is not a temporary condition. That is why ALS is one of two conditions that has an exemption to the 24-month waiting period for Medicare.

Again, that same logic should apply to waiving the waiting period for disability insurance.

This legislation is supported by the ALS Association, I AM ALS, Les Turner ALS Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Team Gleason, and the bipartisan House Problem Solvers Caucus.

I look forward to voting for this legislation, because we must stand together and care for those struggling with ALS and also their families as they battle this debilitating disease.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to join us in supporting this great piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON), the distinguished gentleman who has championed this bill.

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), my friend, for yielding.

In 2014, Pete Frates told ESPN: "At the end of the day, I want to be the cliché game-changer. I want to be the guy who shifts everyone's thinking and shifts where the funds are going. Selfishly, I want to give myself a chance, but also give a lot of other people opportunities as well."

Today, we consider ourselves incredibly lucky because we got to know Pete Frates.

Pete, you accomplished this mission long ago, but today's vote is further proof that you will live forever. We are here because you were brave enough to stand up and show the world your strength. We are here because of your family, who continued the fight: Julie, Lucy, John, Nancy, Jennifer, and An-

drew, and the Frate-train. I am so proud of all of you.

We are here because of the hard work of the ALS Association, I AM ALS, and because thousands of ALS patients and their families and caregivers followed your lead.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pass the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, and let's keep fighting until we have a cure for this devastating disease.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), our great whip, to express his thoughts on this important bill.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I also want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), for leading on this important piece of legislation as well.

I rise in strong support, Madam Speaker, of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act.

We have worked closely on so many issues with the ALS community, and this is another great example of that. I know as I was talking with the majority leader last week during our colloquy, Mr. HOYER, we worked on getting this bill scheduled.

Madam Speaker, I thank the majority leader for bringing this bill to the floor, because at a time when you hear about Congress' disagreements—which, unfortunately, there are a number of areas where we do disagree—this is one area where we have come together; and not just today, on this issue regarding the timeline that you have to wait for ALS patients to be eligible for SSDI, a timeline that we will now eliminate, properly so, but we have been here before and Congress has come together on other areas.

The Steve Gleason Act is one of those great examples, where speech-generating devices were being denied to people with ALS. It was a ruling that had come out of Medicare that we had all disagreed with, but it took an act of Congress to fix that.

Congress did come together to do that, just as Congress is coming together today to right this wrong and to stand up for those ALS patients who just want to live life to the fullest.

Steve Gleason is one of those examples. He is a constituent of mine and has become a dear friend, and somebody who really does live life to the fullest and doesn't let a disability define him.

He actually has gone out and become a pioneer and inspired so many others to just go out and live their life and let's get government impediments out of the way.

That is what we are doing here today. We are coming together as Republicans and Democrats to stand up for those people with ALS who just want that opportunity to live their life to the fullest.

I want to reiterate that great motto that Steve Gleason lives by: No white flags. It means you never surrender; you just go out there every day and do the best you can.

Today, we are going to help thousands of people across this country do exactly that.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), a distinguished gentleman who has been a lifelong fighter on behalf of people with disabilities.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 578, the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, which ensures that individuals who are diagnosed with ALS are not forced to wait to receive the Social Security Disability benefits that they have earned and they so desperately need.

The onset of a disability can be a difficult, challenging, and often disorienting time. However, by eliminating the 5-month waiting period for ALS patients to receive disability benefits, we can help families facing this difficult diagnosis focus on their health and well-being instead of worrying about how to keep a roof over their head or put food on the table.

Madam Speaker, I applaud my good friend and colleague, Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, for championing this bipartisan effort in the Senate. He has been a strong voice for the ALS community as co-chair of the Senate ALS Caucus, and I have been proud to work with him on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I also recognize our colleague here, Representative SETH MOULTON, for his leadership as well.

Madam Speaker, I also want to recognize one of my constituents, Christa Thompson, who has been a dedicated crusader for the ALS community. Christa knows the struggle all too well, as she has watched her husband, Olin, battle this devastating disease.

Christa, a proud mother of three boys, made it her mission to engage with me and my delegation colleagues early on, and it is in large part due to her efforts and the efforts of ALS advocates everywhere, including my good friend, J.R. Pagliarini, who has been such a champion of ALS back in Rhode Island, that we will be able to provide some important relief to families.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

Let's make a difference for these families and those diagnosed with ALS.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

□ 1515

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 578, the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act.

ALS is a rare, fatal, progressive, neurodegenerative disease with an ability to strike anyone at any time throughout the world.

It has no racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic boundaries. Still, we actually have no cause or cure, and it is very sad, but we have to work on a cure. We will never give up, Madam Speaker.

While military veterans are 1½ to 2 times more likely to develop ALS than those who have not served, and 5 to 10 percent of cases are familial and due to a gene mutation, 90 percent are considered sporadic with no clear reason for development.

Rapidly progressing throughout the body, time is critical for ALS patients as many suffer total paralysis and death, typically within 2 to 5 years following diagnosis, although I do know some friends who have lived much longer than that. They continue to contribute to society and to their respective wonderful communities.

Again, during that time, many lose their ability to work and lose access to employer-based insurance. Despite contributing to Social Security during their working years, ALS patients must wait 5 months before they can receive access to the benefits they have earned. These disability benefits help pay for costly medical care, food, and housing.

ALS patients cannot afford to wait for the wheels of bureaucracy to turn. They need our immediate support in the face of this cruel disease. As the co-chair of the Rare Disease Caucus, I urge my colleagues to support this critical bill for ALS patients.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU), a gracious and distinguished lady on the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, which would help those diagnosed with ALS get their benefits quickly by making them eligible to receive Social Security Disability Insurance immediately instead of having to wait 5 months.

I have heard heart-wrenching stories from my constituents whose lives have been upended by this cruel and aggressive disease. ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease over the course of which those with ALS lose the ability to initiate and control muscle movement. This leads to paralysis and, ultimately, death.

Tragically, ALS has a fatality rate of 100 percent. Unfortunately, this disease is so aggressive and can take so long to diagnose that some patients lose their battle with ALS before the 5-month waiting period for SSDI benefits is over. This bill would ensure that those who have an ALS diagnosis are not denied their benefits when they need them most.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the House version of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill before us today.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), the dean of the New York delegation who has had a long history of support for causes such as this.

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, let me thank my colleague from New York for yielding. Let me also commend Mr. LARSON and Mr. MOULTON for their leadership efforts on this, and, of course, Mr. BILIRAKIS.

It is really a great honor to be supporting this legislation. I have known, unfortunately, too many people who suffer from ALS.

It is 100 percent fatal. That is the reality of it.

All of us who meet advocates every year coming in to lobby us, or to urge us to support more research funding for ALS, we realize very quickly they may be there 1 year and 2 years, and then we never see them again because they have died. It is a brutal neurodegenerative neuromuscular disease, and this 5-month limit that was put on them before they can obtain disability benefits was so unfair.

During that 5 months, the disease can progress so rapidly. The medical costs go up. The psychological costs are there. By passing this legislation today, we are going to provide not just financial relief but also psychological and emotional care and relief for their families and friends.

In New York, we always refer to this as Lou Gehrig's disease after the famed Yankee slugger, and I am saying that as a Mets fan. Lou Gehrig is a hero in New York. Unfortunately, as great as his baseball record is, he is known most for the disease that ended both his career and his life.

Let me just say also, this will be my final appearance on the House floor speaking, the last time I speak on the House floor. I want to say what a great honor it has been to serve for these past 28 years with all of the Members. It has been a great privilege for me. One of the real privileges is being able to support legislation such as this, which is so needed and so necessary.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, at this time, it is my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), who I say is the voice of God. When you hear him speak, I think you will agree with me.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

As a cosponsor of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, I rise in strong support of this bill that removes the harmful 5-month waiting period for earned Social Security Disability Insurance benefits.

For years, representatives from the greater Chicago chapter of The ALS Association have raised the financial

hardship caused by this waiting period. Disability insurance is an earned benefit. Federal law should ease suffering and promote the well-being of persons eligible for SSDI.

This bill will help alleviate the financial burden of persons and families struggling with ALS, making it a little easier as they battle the tremendous loss associated with this illness.

Enacting this bill is an important step forward to removing barriers to disability benefits. I look forward to advancing additional bills to eliminate obstacles to disability benefits, including advocating for the elimination of the waiting period for financial and Medicare assistance for all SSDI-eligible individuals.

Again, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, at this time, I have no other speakers seeking time, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), considered the greatest hockey player in the Congress.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am sure not everyone on the other side would agree with that, or on this side either.

I rise today in strong support of this bill, and I want to thank Chairman NEAL and Members MOULTON and KING for a bill that will surely bring hope and dignity to ALS patients and caregivers.

The 5-month waiting period is simply unacceptable for a disease like ALS, and I am glad that Congress is finally righting this wrong.

Over the past 2 years, it has been an honor for me to partner with the ALS community. For too long, ALS has flown under the radar. It has gone underfunded, underresearched, and unnoticed. But that is rapidly changing, thanks to the efforts of patient advocates fighting for their own lives and the lives of those not yet diagnosed.

I would like to give a special shout-out to my friends and Chicagoans, Brian Wallach and Sandra Abrevaya, the husband and wife cofounders of I AM ALS, and to Dan Tate, Jr. They are tireless, selfless patient advocates. Without them, we simply wouldn't be here today.

I want to thank you all for bringing this bill to the floor. I am proud to be an original cosponsor and welcome its bipartisan support.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019, and I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary leadership of Congressman MOULTON, who has led this effort in the House, and my Senator, Senator WHITEHOUSE, in the Senate, and all the cosponsors.

As we all know, ALS is a terribly debilitating disease. For those of us who have friends or family members who have been diagnosed with this, we know what a family endures when the diagnosis is made, and they are overwrought with how they are going to manage this very serious health challenge. Imagine, in addition to all of that, if people have to worry about whether or not they have access to care in those critical first months of this disease.

So, I applaud everyone who has cosponsored this bill. Patients and families will benefit enormously from this legislation. They will have one less thing to worry about when they are confronting this very serious diagnosis.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank the gentleman again for yielding.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I have great gratitude for my distinguished colleague from New York (Mr. REED), and I thank SETH MOULTON for his outstanding work on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 578, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, as we close this debate, I applaud my colleague from Connecticut who is a true, good friend, Mr. LARSON, and I mean that from the bottom of my heart.

I am just proud to stand in full support of this commonsense legislation that will make a difference, Madam Speaker, in the lives of so many Americans suffering from ALS. I know it will make a difference for Mick Palmesano. I know it will help alleviate and bring some comfort to the entire Palmesano family in our home district of New York.

But most importantly, I know we demonstrated to the folks in America that Congress can work, that Democrats and Republicans can come together on an important issue like this and pass important legislation that will improve the lives of Americans.

Last week, the Senate overwhelmingly passed this legislation, Madam Speaker. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in support of this fine legislation so we can get it to the President's desk for signature without delay.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I join today in support of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act to ensure that individuals diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) receive the financial support they need and for which they have already qualified. I congratulate Congressman MOULTON and Senator WHITEHOUSE on their successful leadership for this important effort of which I have been a cosponsor.

For individuals who are determined to have a sufficiently severe disability to qualify for Social Security Disability Insurance, the security that Social Security is intended to provide can come with a cost—two years without health insurance. This waiting period—which should really be called a suffering period—must be eliminated. Two unjustified delays prolong the suffering. The first, a five-month delay to receive any disability payment even though the recipient has already qualified. The second, is a two-year delay to access Medicare coverage for which they already qualified.

This means that the millions of individuals with disabilities in this waiting period may not be able to access necessary medical treatments and medications. This only makes existing health complications worse and increases overall health care spending. Many die waiting their turn for health coverage. In 2018 alone, about 16,000 workers with disabilities died during the 5-month waiting period and about 56,000 workers with disabilities died waiting for Medicare coverage.

These waiting periods only serve to harm the health of individuals with disabilities and delay the support they need. In addition to this bill for individuals with ALS, other colleagues have offered legislation to end the waiting periods for individuals with metastatic breast cancer, Huntington's Disease, and other life-threatening illnesses. I support all of these efforts. We must provide a healthy foundation for all individuals with disabilities, who already are experiencing unique health challenges.

I hope that this ALS bill represents a step forward in the eventual approval of the bipartisan Stop the Wait bill, H.R. 4386, that I introduced to eliminate the onerous waiting periods for Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicare. This bill now has 50 House cosponsors, and Senator BOB CASEY has introduced companion legislation. Having recognized the suffering of these waiting periods for Americans with ALS, I urge Congress to consider the suffering of all those subject to waiting periods and pass long-overdue reforms to Stop the Wait. We must ensure individuals with disabilities have access to health care when they need it. Social Security cannot truly provide health care security, until all individuals with disabilities have guaranteed access to prompt Medicare coverage. Let's Stop the Wait for all of them.

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act. This important bill eliminates the mandatory five-month waiting period for patients with ALS seeking to access the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits they earned.

The waiting period creates an undue financial burden when ALS patients are already facing enormous financial stress. But while we act today to alleviate the hardship created by this waiting period for ALS patients, Congress must extend similar relief to other beneficiaries who are equally deserving.

What sense does it make to have require SSDI beneficiaries to endure a five-month waiting period after they have been determined eligible for their earned SSDI benefits? This requirement creates an unnecessary delay for some of our nation's most vulnerable.

We must ensure that all individuals who qualify for SSDI can access the benefits for which they have already qualified without

undue delay. I urge my colleagues to not only support the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, but to end the waiting period for all SSDI beneficiaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 578.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION DIRECTLY ACT

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1375) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency of Medicare secondary payer reporting information, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1375

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Provide Accurate Information Directly Act” or “PAID Act”.

SEC. 2. TRANSPARENCY OF MEDICARE SECONDARY PAYER REPORTING INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1862(b)(8)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 395y(b)(8)(G)) is amended—

(1) by striking “INFORMATION.—The Secretary” and inserting “INFORMATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(ii) SPECIFIED INFORMATION.—In responding to any query from an applicable plan related to a determination described in subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary, notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall provide to such applicable plan—

“(I) whether a claimant subject to the query is, or during the preceding 3-year period has been, entitled to benefits under the program under this title on any basis; and

“(II) to the extent applicable, the plan name and address of any Medicare Advantage plan under part C and any prescription drug plan under part D in which the claimant is enrolled or has been enrolled during such period.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to queries from plans made on or after the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. DEPOSIT OF SAVINGS INTO MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking “\$0” and inserting “\$30,000,000”.

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that